

Berkshire Middle School



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21707 West Fourteen Mile Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025

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Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2014-15 educational progress for Berkshire Middle School. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about student assessment, accountability, and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact me or a member of the office staff at 248.203.4700 for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://goo.gl/hd7Yxo>, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

Berkshire has been diligently working on ensuring that all of our students are able to take advantage of the wide variety of academic opportunities that exist throughout our school community. In addition, it is essential that we recognize that we have students who are performing at various levels of academic achievement. Therefore, we have put great emphasis on utilizing our Response to Intervention committee to identify and progress monitor students that participate in various interventions (i.e. Directed Studies, Math Lab, Literacy, etc).

Furthermore, Berkshire has also been very intentional at recognizing the need to provide rigorous challenges and enrichment opportunities for our students that are academically advanced in many curricular areas. As an example, over the past several years, we have seen tremendous growth in the number of students that are taking advanced math courses. To better meet the individualized needs of all of our students, the Berkshire staff has also incorporated teaching strategies that focus on differentiated instruction.

State law requires that we also report additional information:

1. Birmingham Public Schools is a closed district, which means that families must live within the district to be placed at a neighborhood school. Tuition-based programs are available for out-of-district families interested in attending our district.
2. For the past several school years, the Berkshire school improvement plan has focused on improving our overall culture and academic learning environment. By intentionally focusing on improving our culture and learning environment, Berkshire Middle School has successfully created a conducive climate that has positively impacted student learning and achievement. As evidence of our improved culture and climate, Berkshire Middle School was recently recognized in 2015 as a National School of Character by Character.org. This prestigious honor was only awarded to 10 other middle schools throughout the entire nation.
3. BPS offers specialized schools to students within the district.
 - a. Birmingham Covington School is a 3-8 district-wide school of choice open to BPS students with a special emphasis on science and technology. Interested students may register to enroll. If there aren't enough spaces available, a lottery is held in January to select students for the upcoming school year.
 - b. Lincoln Street Alternative High School seeks to develop the unique talents of their students by providing them the opportunity to acquire the skills, knowledge and attitude necessary to live successfully in a changing world. LSAHS provides a flexible learning environment in a family atmosphere that encourages student decision-making, critical thinking, understanding of and appreciation for individual and cultural differences, and good citizenship in our democratic society.
 - c. BPS partners with the International Academy to offer the International Baccalaureate program to high school students. Currently, the district holds 130 seats for interested students accepted into the program.

- d. Oakland Schools Technical Campus Southeast is an extension of the high school program and provides nine educational clusters which are developed around broad occupational areas containing many different, but related, career training options for students.
4. BPS adheres to the State of Michigan’s core curriculum. Currently the district is working on revisions to the curriculum and will have that available once it is complete. To access a copy of the state’s core curriculum, visit <http://tinyurl.com/MI-Standards>.
5. The state requires each district to administer district-selected tests in English Language Arts and Mathematics in first through eighth grades. BPS uses assessments closely tied to its curriculum.

The school district assessed students in grades 1-8 each spring with a common Writing Assessment. The writing scores below represent the percentages of students that scored at or above standard this year and last. The district also administers the NWEA Math and Reading Assessments in Grades 1-8. Below are spring 2015 and spring 2014 mean RIT (Rasch uNIT) scores, compared to national norm RIT scores.

BPS Writing Prompt	Year	% Above Standard		
		6th	7th	8 th
Berkshire	Spring 2015	87.9	71.2	90.8
Berkshire	Spring 2014	90.1	82.5	80.1

NWEA Reading	Year	RIT Mean Score		
		6th	7th	8 th
Berkshire	Spring 2015	219.9	223.6	227.6
Berkshire	Spring 2014	221.3	224.8	228.1
NWEA National Norms	Spring 2011	216.4	219.7	222.4

NWEA Math	Year	RIT Mean Score		
		6th	7th	8 th
Berkshire	Spring 2015	229.9	237.3	242.9
Berkshire	Spring 2014	230.9	237.4	241.1
NWEA National Norms	Spring 2011	225.6	230.5	234.5

6. During the 2014-2015 school year, 93% of our parents attended a conference (91% for female students and 94% for male students). This compares to 91% of parents that attended a conference (89% for female students and 93 percent for male students) during the 2013-2014 school year.

We thank the Berkshire community for their continued support of our programs and activities. We are pleased to present this outstanding report for your review. Please contact the district at 248.203.3000 for more information about our achievements.

Sincerely,

Jason Clinkscale
Principal

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

The Board of Education is committed to maintaining a learning/working environment in which all individuals are treated with dignity and respect, free from discrimination and harassment. There will be no tolerance for discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, genetic information, disability or age. The District prohibits harassment and other forms of discrimination whether occurring at school, on District property, in a District vehicle, or at any District related activity or event. The Superintendent will designate compliance officers and develop and implement regulations for the reporting, investigation and resolution of complaints of discrimination or harassment. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Students - Inquiries related to discrimination on the basis of disability should be directed to: Executive Director of Specialized Instruction and Student Services, 31301 Evergreen Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025, 248.203.3000. Direct all other inquiries related to discrimination to: Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, 31301 Evergreen Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025, 248.203.3000.